

Veritas
presents

THIS IS THE HISTORIC ALBUM FEATURING
THE ORIGINAL FIRST RECORDINGS OF
AMERICA'S MOST EXCITING FOLK SINGER
THE BEST OF JOAN BAEZ

FOLKSONGERS

'ROUND HARVARD SQUARE

JOAN BAEZ

BILL WOOD

TED ALEVIZOS



FOLKSINGERS

'ROUND HARVARD SQUARE

The Spring of 1959 saw the mushrooming of the folksong revival along with the coffee houses and the many college and social clubs where they were being performed, the twanging of banjo and guitar being heard most authoritatively in and around Harvard Square. It will surprise no one that some extraordinary talent has come forward from among the many young people attracted to this art form. This recording, though not attempting to be a complete round-up, demonstrates the talents of three of the most gifted.



Seen in the hazy greenish spotlight of a local coffee house, surrounded by an attentive following, the lovely Joan Baez looks, for all her eighteen years, like a priestess at some ancient rite. Possessing a rich, soaring voice, her control of volume exerts a dramatic effect on her audience, often leaving them quite breathless. Of Mexican-Irish ancestry, Joan had come to New England only recently from her native California to attend Boston University. She was immediately drawn into the local folksong circuits and, within a few months, had become the most popular performer in the area. Her unusually expressive voice and intuitive musicianship have immediate impact. This is an undeniable talent. As this is being written offers from leading recording companies are already pouring in.



Bill Wood, who was at this period a senior at Harvard in charge of the folksong radio program on Harvard University's radio station, had been exposed to folksinging since childhood. He learned to sing and perform through participation-singing at camps—this, I guess, is the most usual development of the modern day folksinger. "I got my hands on an old guitar and chord book at the age of twelve," he says, and started picking out accompaniments. Inspired by contacts with

Pete Seeger, Josh White, and Sam Gary he developed a competent guitar-picking style which has been used to back up most of the performers in the area at one time or another. His performing manner is subdued, almost dead-pan, yet always entertaining (sometimes hilariously so); he cannot hide the obviously real affection he has for his songs.



Ted Alevizos, on the other hand, enters this milieu through another door. Here is a trained singer, a devoted student of voice and music, with a dramatic high tenor which he used in a style which immediately reminded me of John Jacob Niles. I found that he evolved this style by himself—until recently he had not heard that performer. When his friends heard what this voice could do with spirituals, mountain ballads, and the many Greek folk songs he knows, they prodded and goaded him—converting him into another guitar-picking folksong addict.

This gifted trio is here presented on a recording which attempts to preserve the spontaneity of their performances and the excitement of their discovery of this music. They speak well for Harvard Square. And Harvard Square loves them.

MANUEL GREENHILL*

JOAN BAEZ stopped the show and was singled out for praise by the New York Times for her high-spirited impromptu performance at the Newport Folksong Festival (1959), when folksong star Bob Gibson called her up from the audience to join him on the stage. In his Boston Sunday Herald column, George Wein, Boston University's Instructor in the History and Evolution of Jazz and vice-president and musical director of the Newport Jazz and Folksong Festivals, has described Joan as "one of the most naturally talented people we have heard in this field of Folk Music."

Joan fulfilled her first important professional engagement at the folksingers' Mecca, the Gate of Horn in Chicago in 1959, at the age of eighteen. Apart from numerous radio guest appearances she has sung regularly at Club 47 Coffee House in Cambridge and at the Golden Vanity Coffee House in Boston, as well as at the Ballad Room in Boston. At George Wein's invitation she has also sung at Boston's famed Storyville.

Joan's scope as a singer is matched by her skill in another field. A talented graphic artist, Joan ranges easily from serious portraiture to wild concoctions from her private peek-a-boo world.

BILL WOOD graduated from Harvard, 1959 and is now doing graduate work in bio-chemistry at Stanford University, California. A collector of American and Euro-

JOAN BAEZ

1. ON THE BANKS OF THE OHIO
2. O WHAT A BEAUTIFUL CITY
3. SAIL AWAY LADIES
4. BLACK IS THE COLOR
5. LOWLANDS
6. WHAT YOU GONNA CALL YOUR PRETTY LITTLE BABY

JOAN BAEZ and BILL WOOD

7. KITTY
8. SO SOON IN THE MORNING
9. CARELESS LOVE

SIDE TWO

BILL WOOD

1. LE CHEVAL DANS LA BEIGNOIRE
(The Horse in the Bathtub — *Stephen Goldman*)
2. JOHN HENRY
3. TRAVELIN' SHOES
4. THE BOLD SOLDIER

TED ALEVIZOS

5. WALIE WALIE
6. REJECTED LOVER
7. ASTRAPSEN (The Sun is Risen)
8. LASS FROM THE LOW COUNTRY

JOAN BAEZ, BILL WOOD, TED ALEVIZOS

9. DON'T WEEP AFTER ME

pean folk songs, he made many concert appearances in the Boston area during his years at Harvard, including a number jointly with Joan Baez, whom he met in 1959 and with whom he at once formed a permanent society for mutual admiration. He also appeared regularly with The Raunch Hands, a talented undergraduate singing group which he organized and led.

Bill's home is in Baltimore, Md., but he is a native of Missouri and that State claimed him for her own after his performance at the National Folksong Festival in St. Louis.

TED ALEVIZOS is a noted collector of folk songs, known especially for his recordings of Greek folk songs. As Assistant Chief of Circulation and Stacks at Widener Library, Harvard, he has at his disposal for research one of the finest folklore and folk song collections in the country.

A graduate of Marquette and Columbia Universities, Ted also studied at the Julliard School of Music in New York as a Special Student in Voice. In addition to concert appearances, he has appeared at Storyville and the Ballad Room in Boston. He recently sang as guest artist on a special folk music television program in Boston. His radio appearances include the Oscar Brand Show, the Manny Greenhill program and the Harvard Radio Station Folk Music program. — P.R. & L.M.W.

Original tapes recorded by Stephen Fassett in Boston, Mass., during May, 1959.

Cover design by Peter Robinson Photos by Rick Stafford

This is album number of a limited edition of this high fidelity recording of Veritas Folksong series—1960—Vol. 1, No. 1.

*The author of the album notes, Manuel Greenhill, is New England's foremost folk impresario. He is the founder-president of the first Folklore Society established in this historical and cultural area. More than any other single individual, he has been responsible for the growth of interest in Folk music in New England.

LEMUEL MARSHALL WELLS—PRODUCER

Veritas
Cultural
Records
"Folksong Series"



Copley Square
Boston, Massachusetts

VERITAS

Presents
FOLKSINGERS 'ROUND HARVARD SQUARE
JOAN BAEZ · BILL WOOD · TED ALEVIZOS

1. On the Banks of the Ohio (Folksong) Joan Baez
2. O What a Beautiful City (Spiritual) Joan Baez
3. Sail Away Ladies (Folksong) Joan Baez
4. Black is the Color (Folksong) Joan Baez

33 $\frac{1}{3}$ LP

Non-Breakable

5. Lowlands (Folksong) Joan Baez
6. What You Gonna Call Your Pretty Little Baby
(Spiritual) Joan Baez
7. Kitty (South African Folksong) Joan Baez &
Bill Wood
8. So Soon in the Morning (Spiritual) Joan Baez
& Bill Wood
9. Careless Love (Trad.) Joan Baez & Bill Wood

SIDE 1

XTV 62202

VERITAS RECORDS, COPLEY SQUARE, BOSTON, MASS.

HF-20209/1X

VERITAS

Presents

FOLKSINGERS 'ROUND HARVARD SQUARE

JOAN BAEZ - BILL WOOD - TED ALEVIZOS

1. Le Cheval dans la Baignoire (The French Horse in the Bathub) (Stephan Goldman) Bill Wood
2. John Henry (Traditional) Bill Wood
3. Travellin' Shoes (Traditional) Bill Wood

33 $\frac{1}{3}$ L P

Non-Breakable

4. The Bold Soldier (Traditional) Bill Wood
5. Wallie Wallie (Appalachian Folksong) Ted Alevizos
6. Rejected Lover (Traditional) Ted Alevizos
7. Astrapsen - The Sun is Risen (Traditional Greek) Ted Alevizos
8. Lass from the Low Country (North Carolina Folksong) Ted Alevizos
9. Dont Weep After Me (Trad. West Indian Folksong) Joan Baez - Bill Wood - Ted Alevizos

SIDE II

XTV 62203

VERITAS RECORDS, COPLEY SQUARE, BOSTON, MASS.

XTV62203-1E